



INQUIRIES

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WAGE RATES INDEXES, DECEMBER 1976 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In December 1976 the weighted average minimum weekly wage rate for adult males increased by 2 cents to \$135.01. The weekly rate for adult females remained unchanged from the November 1976 level of \$125.03.
- Annual percentage increases in the last three calendar years were:

	Adult males	Adult females
1974	36 per cent	41 per cent
1975	12 per cent	19 per cent
1976	15 per cent	15 per cent

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statement contains figures of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females for December 1976 and corresponding figures for some earlier months. More information on these statistics will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered

collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. The indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries; those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are therefore excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for the latest twelve months shown are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

4. For adult males the weekly wage rates exclude rural industry; in addition the hourly rates exclude shipping and stevedoring, for which data to compute hourly wages are not available. The weekly and hourly wage rates for adult females exclude rural industry, mining and quarrying and building and construction.

5. The annual changes shown in Tables 1, 2 and 4 measure the percentage change from the same month for the previous year. The percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes.

TABLE 1. WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES: ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of -	Adult males					Adult females				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)
1975 -										
December	117.95	11.7	417.6	294.06	415.6	108.61	18.5	545.6	273.78	545.7
1976 -										
January	118.18	11.7	418.4	294.88	416.8	108.63	17.0	545.7	273.83	545.8
February	125.69	18.5	445.1	313.63	443.3	115.76	23.3	581.5	291.80	581.6
March	125.74	17.1	445.2	313.75	443.5	115.82	20.8	581.8	291.95	581.9
April	125.83	16.9	445.5	313.97	443.8	116.24	20.4	583.9	293.01	584.0
May	129.49	15.2	458.5	323.15	456.8	119.78	17.5	601.7	301.95	601.9
June	129.60	14.9	458.9	323.46	457.2	119.82	15.2	601.8	302.03	602.0
July	129.64	14.7	459.0	323.54	457.3	119.86	14.7	602.1	302.13	602.2
August	132.23	16.7	468.2	330.05	466.5	122.36	16.8	614.6	308.43	614.8
September	132.24	12.4	468.2	330.08	466.6	122.36	13.0	614.6	308.43	614.8
October	132.24	12.3	468.2	330.07	466.5	122.38	13.0	614.7	308.48	614.9
November	134.99	14.6	478.0	336.94	476.2	125.03	15.4	628.1	315.18	628.2
December	135.01	14.5	478.0	336.98	476.3	125.03	15.1	628.1	315.18	628.2

(a) See explanatory notes above. (b) Base: Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 2. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1976 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (a) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (b)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (c)	185.49	131.07	170.58	127.11	132.89	146.07	167.85	14.2	594.3
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	123.49	129.08	135.11	126.86	126.18	127.77	126.70	14.8	448.6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	123.67	124.53	126.05	123.37	127.02	120.12	124.22	14.6	439.9
Food, drink and tobacco	131.28	131.42	135.89	126.79	133.54	129.60	131.97	14.9	467.3
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	129.89	123.13	134.38	122.87	127.19	122.41	128.05	14.6	453.4
Paper, printing, etc.	131.64	139.43	147.66	136.28	133.89	131.99	136.14	14.2	482.0
Other manufacturing	129.26	130.08	130.72	129.01	127.58	124.01	129.41	14.5	458.2
All manufacturing groups	126.40	129.27	134.99	127.30	128.02	126.93	128.40	14.7	454.7
Building and construction	150.16	148.90	137.81	144.48	134.87	135.58	145.15	14.2	514.0
Railway services	122.59	117.78	138.33	122.80	109.73	123.12	124.30	14.1	440.1
Road and air transport	137.74	129.72	129.57	129.18	132.69	132.61	133.27	14.4	471.9
Shipping and stevedoring (e)	165.95	166.84	159.30	157.55	167.09	163.68	163.97	16.7	580.6
Communication	160.88	161.71	160.50	159.70	161.40	156.83	160.86	13.5	569.6
Wholesale and retail trade	134.68	136.68	135.79	132.19	131.22	136.38	134.90	14.7	477.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	139.93	136.56	142.11	129.16	130.75	148.51	137.82	14.7	488.0
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	128.11	124.37	127.49	120.22	114.85	119.03	124.99	14.7	442.6
All industry groups (a)	135.84	133.97	139.04	132.15	130.69	134.10	135.01	14.5	478.0

For footnotes see Table below.

TABLE 3. HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1976 (a)

Weighted average minimum hourly rates payable and index numbers of hourly rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (cents)							Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (b)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (c)	518.87	327.69	450.31	317.77	348.21	373.40	452.93	640.2
Manufacturing -								
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	308.83	322.93	337.98	317.14	315.73	319.43	316.90	447.9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	309.18	311.32	315.13	308.43	317.55	300.29	310.56	438.9
Food, drink and tobacco	328.67	328.55	339.72	316.97	333.86	324.00	330.09	466.6
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	324.72	307.83	335.94	307.18	317.97	306.03	320.12	452.5
Paper, printing, etc.	329.10	349.07	369.14	340.70	341.48	329.99	340.78	481.7
Other manufacturing	323.14	325.51	326.80	323.29	318.23	310.27	323.66	457.5
All manufacturing groups	316.11	323.36	337.54	318.38	320.30	317.35	321.14	453.9
Building and construction (d)	375.41	372.26	344.53	361.19	337.17	338.95	362.88	512.9
Railway services	306.47	294.76	345.82	307.00	274.34	307.80	310.83	439.3
Road and air transport	344.34	324.29	323.92	322.96	331.72	331.53	333.17	470.9
Communication	412.69	416.44	413.32	416.16	415.63	404.41	414.03	585.2
Wholesale and retail trade	336.71	341.70	339.48	330.48	328.04	340.94	337.26	476.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	356.72	350.76	359.57	329.24	330.34	377.04	351.12	496.3
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	320.27	310.94	318.72	300.55	287.13	297.58	312.47	441.7
All industry groups (a)	339.97	333.84	347.27	328.68	325.72	331.66	336.98	476.3

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Base: Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (c) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (d) The weekly rates used in the index for occupations specified in the National Building Trades Construction Award include the weekly base rate of pay, the special allowance and the industry allowance. (e) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers.

TABLE 4. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1976 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)						Annual Index Nos. change (a) (Base 1954 = % 100) (b)	
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing —								
Engineering, metals, vehicles etc.	120.76	127.59	123.07	121.89	123.57	122.56	123.29	15.4 619.3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	117.38	115.66	117.91	118.67	119.35	109.87	116.58	15.3 585.6
Food, drink and tobacco	125.05	124.97	123.45	121.35	111.35	120.49	123.72	15.3 621.4
Other manufacturing	122.18	124.21	124.65	121.45	120.94	118.07	122.92	14.8 617.4
All manufacturing groups	120.14	120.04	121.14	120.81	118.37	115.77	120.09	15.2 603.2
Transport and communication	127.36	128.92	133.15	131.91	126.84	134.14	129.22	14.9 649.1
Wholesale and retail trade	133.26	136.45	130.75	131.97	128.51	125.99	133.09	15.5 668.5
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	132.38	132.12	129.33	122.81	116.54	129.59	130.07	14.3 653.3
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	122.91	120.68	121.30	116.90	108.24	115.28	120.41	14.6 604.8
All industry groups (a)	125.38	125.08	126.38	125.02	120.95	121.08	125.03	15.1 628.1

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 5. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of —	N.S.W.	Vic	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (a)									
1975 —									
December	118.70	117.32	121.48	115.13	113.32	117.27	119.24	116.39	117.95
1976 —									
January	119.08	117.32	121.58	115.13	113.99	117.71	119.26	116.86	118.18
February	126.62	124.68	129.37	122.70	121.47	125.05	126.74	124.43	125.69
March	126.63	124.71	129.58	122.74	121.54	125.05	126.79	124.47	125.74
April	126.69	124.74	129.67	123.07	121.63	125.07	126.80	124.64	125.83
May	130.36	128.35	133.51	126.71	125.17	128.72	130.47	128.29	129.49
June	130.46	128.58	133.54	126.77	125.24	128.75	130.52	128.50	129.60
July	130.49	128.62	133.54	126.78	125.35	128.76	130.52	128.58	129.64
August	133.08	131.17	136.06	129.34	128.31	131.30	133.06	131.22	132.23
September	133.11	131.17	136.06	129.35	128.37	131.30	133.06	131.25	132.24
October	133.08	131.17	136.06	129.34	128.44	131.30	133.06	131.24	132.24
November	135.80	133.97	139.04	132.14	130.69	134.10	135.89	133.90	134.99
December	135.84	133.97	139.04	132.15	130.69	134.10	135.89	133.93	135.01
ADULT FEMALES (a)									
1975 —									
December	109.27	109.20	110.22	103.34	104.94	105.56	102.76	113.69	108.61
1976 —									
January	109.29	109.20	110.22	103.49	104.94	105.56	102.76	113.72	108.63
February	116.23	116.17	117.37	113.15	111.19	112.33	109.38	121.30	115.76
March	116.23	116.24	117.37	113.41	111.58	112.33	109.38	121.41	115.82
April	116.44	116.49	117.57	116.35	111.75	112.44	109.78	121.85	116.24
May	120.16	119.90	121.06	119.84	114.90	115.98	113.06	125.63	119.78
June	120.16	119.90	121.16	119.84	115.30	115.98	113.06	125.68	119.82
July	120.16	119.90	121.16	119.84	116.09	115.98	113.06	125.76	119.86
August	122.70	122.41	123.66	122.34	118.29	118.48	115.56	128.26	122.36
September	122.70	122.41	123.66	122.34	118.31	118.48	115.56	128.26	122.36
October	122.70	122.41	123.66	122.34	118.68	118.48	115.56	128.30	122.38
November	125.38	125.08	126.38	125.02	120.95	121.08	118.09	131.07	125.03
December	125.38	125.08	126.38	125.02	120.95	121.08	118.09	131.07	125.03

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1.

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